

nearly 400 years of Ottoman rule and return Greece to its democratic heritage. Today, I join the almost 3 million Greek-Americans living in the United States in celebrating the 175th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

On this anniversary it is appropriate to reflect on the strong historical bond between our two countries. More than 2,500 years ago the idea of democracy was born in Athens. The intellectual and political climate of that time provided the impetus for a sea-change in philosophy, the arts, and science. In the preface to his poem *Hellas*, Shelley wrote: "Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts have their roots in Greece."

Our Founding Fathers drew heavily upon the political and philosophical experience of the ancient Greeks in forming our representative democracy. Since that time, the contributions of Greek-Americans to the development of our Nation can be found in all areas of American life—from great scientists like Nicholas Christofilos to our Greek-American colleagues in Congress to the souvlakis we eat.

On this 175th anniversary it is appropriate that we take pride in celebrating the enduring relationship between our two countries.

HONORING JAMES R. NUNES

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in an era when crime is all too frequently a part of our daily lives, it is good to know there are brave, capable men and women who each day protect and serve the American people.

James R. Nunes is one of these persons. His 33 years of service as a law enforcement officer have been exemplary to his colleagues and rewarding to those he has served. For the past 26 years, he has been a member of the Pleasant Hill, CA police force; the past 17 of these years, he has been Chief of the Pleasant Hill force.

During his tenure, Chief Nunes has played an active role in putting police on the beat, developing effective youth, crime prevention and DARE programs, and other meaningful anti-crime and community-building efforts. His understanding of the needs of future law enforcement led to the construction of an outstanding new police facility. And his role in the California Peace Officers Association, his study at the FBI National Academy, and his ongoing commitment to professional development in a variety of positions and organizations have enabled him to stay on the cutting edge of leadership.

It is a pleasure for me to recognize Chief Nunes, and to wish him every success in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF FOOD & FRIENDS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a group of people that have done so

much for the people of the Washington Metropolitan area. Food & Friends, an organization dedicated to feeding nutritious meals to homebound people with AIDS, is preparing to celebrate Thanks A Million Day. One week from today, Food & Friends will deliver its one million meal.

The number of HIV positive and AIDS cases in the Washington area has increased exponentially in just a few years, ranking Washington fifth for the highest number of AIDS cases in the Nation. Fortunately, also on the exponential rise is the determination and capability of the people at Food & Friends. When the group was founded in 1988 it served 30 clients per day. Today 450 area homebound people with AIDS receive 1,350 nutritious meals every day at no cost to Food & Friends clients.

Providing physical sustenance is vital to HIV positive people, and people with AIDS. Volunteer visits for their spiritual sustenance are equally important. Food & Friends works alongside other AIDS service programs, including those which offer support groups and legal advice. In addition they provide nutrition, education and counseling services to the HIV community by a trained and licensed dietitian. Food & Friends provides companionship and life sustaining nutrition enhancing their clients quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see my constituents, along with the constituents of my metropolitan area colleagues, working side by side to serve this group of people so in need. Whether by volunteering to deliver meals, dedicating professional services, or contributing to the United Way Combined Federal Campaign, our friends have helped to make the lives of Food & Friends clients a little easier. I applaud their work to help the people in their own community, and as I join my metropolitan area colleagues at Thanks A Million Day, I urge you to join us in thanking this wonderful organization for the invaluable service it provides; in essence, food and friends.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF DURHAM WOODS EXPLOSION

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the second anniversary of the Durham Woods natural gas pipeline explosion.

On that fateful night, the residents of Edison, NJ were startled out of their sleep by the tremendous explosion that ripped through the Durham Woods apartment complex.

A 36-inch natural gas pipeline had ruptured, sending men, women, and children fleeing from their homes in a race for their lives against a roaring wall of fire.

Miraculously, only one person died. Twenty-nine others escaped with only minor injuries.

Although the physical rebuilding of Durham Woods is complete, this horrendous explosion has left lingering fears about the hidden dangers of natural gas pipelines.

Unfortunately, Congress has been slow to act to pass pipeline safety legislation. Although the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which I am a member, quickly passed a pipeline safety bill in the

opening months of the 104th Congress, this bill still has not been voted on by the full House.

This delay is precluding some important new safety measures from becoming law that could help prevent another Durham Woods-type disaster.

For example, although it may never be precisely determined what caused the Durham Woods blast, authorities strongly suspect that a gouge, found in the pipeline after the explosion, had weakened the pipeline and precipitated the blast.

Nationally, the single largest cause of pipeline accidents is excavating crews or other workers accidentally damaging pipelines. But in far too many instances, the damage is never reported to the pipeline operator. After the incident, the weakened pipe begins to deteriorate and the risk of an explosion increases.

A proposal I drafted that was included in the House pipeline safety bill addressed this problem. My proposal would establish a tough new Federal crime that would punish anyone who damages a pipeline and does not promptly report the damage to the authorities. Violators would not only be hit with a hefty fine of \$25,000, but would face a jail term of 5 years.

Another provision in the pipeline safety bill of particular importance to any constituents concerns the one-call system. All States currently have some form of one-call system which requires construction crews to contact a central office before beginning any excavation work near a pipeline. But the success of these programs is often hindered by a lack of knowledge about the program or how it works. An important feature of the pipeline safety bill encourages pipeline companies and the States to launch public education programs aimed at all businesses which conduct excavating activities. This education program would increase compliance with one-call systems, which play an essential role in keeping pipelines safe.

Mr. Speaker, while I am working to get Congress to pass a pipeline safety bill, I believe that improving pipeline safety is not solely the responsibility of the Government. The pipeline companies that own and operate natural gas pipelines should be improving their own safety programs. Improving the safety of their pipelines and increasing the public's confidence not only makes good business sense, it is the right thing to do.

Therefore, today I am calling on Texas Eastern, who owns the pipeline that immolated Durham Woods 2 years ago, to voluntarily make a commitment to upgrade their safety procedures. Specifically, I request that Texas Eastern take immediate steps to install a remote control valve system on its pipelines in New Jersey. A remote control valve system would allow the flow of natural gas to be shut off by a human operator in case of a leak or a fissure in the pipeline. If a remote control valve was in place near the rupture that caused the Durham Woods explosion, this disaster may have been avoided.

Mr. Speaker, Texas Eastern shouldn't wait for a law that would require it to make its pipelines safer. Moreover, this Congress shouldn't have to wait for the next pipeline disaster before it is prodded into passing a pipeline safety bill. My constituents have been waiting 2 years for a response from their Government, and for Texas Eastern to install remote control valves. They should be required to wait no longer.